



Texas Department of Public Safety Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

Event Name	Winter Weather Event
Date	March 5, 2015
Time	0800
Operational Period	March 5, 2015
Report Number	#3

Regions Affected	
DPS Regions Affected	Regions 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6
DDCs Active	None

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:

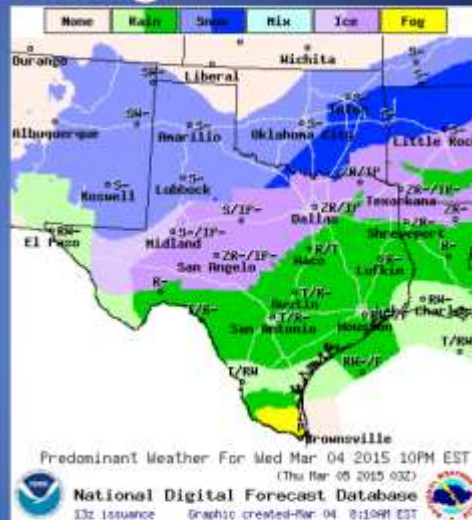
A strong arctic air mass will continue to sweep across the state throughout the morning. An upper level disturbance and moist gulf air will combine to produce precipitation above the cold air with the result expected to be a mix of freezing rain and sleet. The precipitation has been less than previously anticipated and impacts not as significant. The Winter Storm Warnings in most areas have been downgraded to a Winter Weather Advisory for minor traffic impacts.

In response to these potential winter weather conditions and in order to provide a coordinated, rapid, and effective response to any requests for assistance, State Operations Center increased its activation level to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) effective at 10 a.m on Wednesday, March 4, 2015. Representatives from the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT), Texas Military Forces (TXMF), Texas Department of Public Safety Highway Patrol (TXDPS THP), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) reported to the State Operations Center in order to support any needed response.

Disaster District personnel, to include Regional State Coordinators in Regions 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 continue to monitor this developing winter weather situation and remain in contact with their respective local jurisdictions.



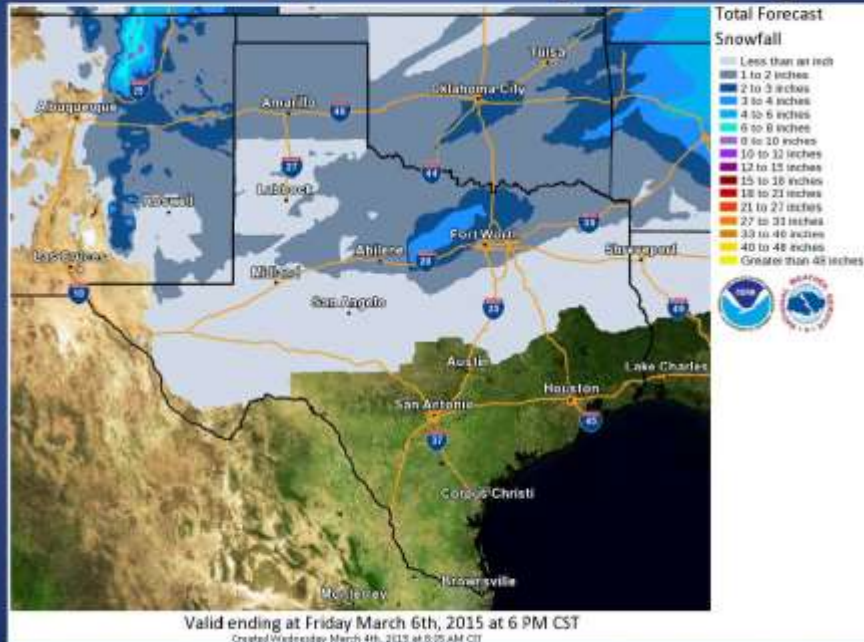
Wednesday Late Afternoon/ Evening



- Snow continues over the Panhandle
- Sleet/freezing rain/snow mix spreads into Midland/Odessa, San Angelo, DFW, and northeast TX



Total Snow/Sleet Forecast through Thursday morning



A wintry mix of freezing rain, sleet and snow moved southeast across all of north and central Texas throughout the evening and overnight hours as arctic air moved across the region. Snow rates of 1-2" were observed in areas of the region. Flood Warnings were issued for the Cowleech Fork Sabine River at Greenville affecting Hunt County and the South Fork Sabine River near Quinlan affecting Hunt and Rockwall Counties.

NWS Shreveport:

Temperatures began to fall below freezing starting yesterday evening in the northern sections of the area. As that happened, rain transitioned to freezing rain and some sleet is possible in the winter weather warning area making travel conditions hazardous on bridges and overpasses where ice accumulates. The wintry precipitation will slowly shift south overnight spreading across much of the area including areas along and south of the IH20 corridor by daybreak. Freezing rain and sleet will be the primary threat, but snow is expected along and north of the IH30 corridor. Flood Warnings were issued for the Sulphur River below Talco affecting Titus County and the Sulphur River near Napes affecting Morris County.

REGION 1 (Includes DDCs 4, 5, 6, and 22)

Texas Department of Public Safety units continued to work crashes on IH20 and assist local agencies as needed. TxDOT continues to scrape and sand the affected highway.

EOC Activations:

City of Flower Mound
City of Colleyville
City of Richardson
City of Sachse
City of Wylie
City of Plano
City of McKinney
City of Waxahachie

Government Facilities Delays/Closures:

Texas Department of Public Safety DPS office Delayed Opening/Closure: – All DPS offices within Region 1

Texas Health and Human Services Commission – Delayed Opening/Closure: Denton, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Tarrant, Wise, Dallas, Collin, Ellis, Hunt, Navarro, Rockwall, Bowie, Cass, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, Titus, Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Panola, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, Wood, Cooke, Fannin and Grayson Counties

Region 2

NWS Houston/Galveston:

Temperatures reached the freezing mark across the region. However, due to warm conditions over the past couple days, road issues are not expected.

NWS Lake Charles:

A band of showers and embedded thunderstorms affected most of the region with some sleet in areas. Surface temperatures are expected to remain above freezing with no significant frozen precipitation accumulation.

REGION 2 (Includes DDCs 13, 14, 15, 16)**Government Facilities Delays/Closures**

Texas Health and Human Services Commission – Delayed Opening/Closure: Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson and Washington Counties

Region 4**NWS Midland/Odessa:**

Wintry precipitation moved out of the region overnight. However, temperatures remain in the 20's across much of the area which will keep the bridges, overpasses and roadways icy.

NWS El Paso:

Polar air dropped temperatures 15 degrees overnight. The front brought strong gusty winds, with rain and snow showers.

NWS San Angelo:

A mixture of freezing rain, sleet and snow moved across the region overnight. Some snow is possible during the morning hours today.

Region 4 (Includes DDCs 8, 9, and 10)**Government Facilities Delays/Closures**

Texas Health and Human Services Commission – Delayed Opening/Closure: Andrews, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Howard, McCulloch, Midland, Ward, Reeves, Pecos, Sutton and Tom Green Counties

City of Big Springs offices delayed opening until 10 a.m. Thursday, March 5, 2015

Region 5**NWS Lubbock:**

Sunshine and southwest winds will return to the area today. However, cold air will remain in place so chilly high temperatures are expected.

NWS Amarillo:

Isolated snow flurries may occur today. However, no further snow accumulations are expected today.

Region 5 (Includes DDCs 1, 2, 3, 7 and 9)

DPS units are assisting local agencies on IH20 in the vicinity of Ranger Hill, Eastland County. The Salvation Army (TSA) warming center in Abilene is open and other jurisdictions are ready to open warming centers or shelters as needed. 211 Texas is able to assist persons with sheltering needs.

Government Facilities Delays/Closures

Texas Department of Public Safety DPS office Delayed Opening/Closure: Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hemphill, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Swisher, Wheeler, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Lubbock, Lynn, Terry, Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Hardeman, Jack, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, Young, Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Stephens, Stonewall and Throckmorton Counties

Texas Health and Human Services Commission – Delayed Opening/Closure: Garza, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock, Terry, Archer, Baylor, Brown, Coleman, Cottle, Eastland, Haskell, Jones, Montague, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Stephens, Taylor, Wichita, Wilbarger and Young Counties

Government Facilities Delays/Closures

Crosby County Courthouse offices will delay opening until 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 5, 2015.

Floyd County Courthouse offices will delay opening until 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 5, 2015.

Lubbock County Courthouse offices will delay opening until 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 5, 2015.

Young County Courthouse offices will delay opening until 1:00 p.m. Thursday, March 5, 2015

Region 6

NWS Austin/San Antonio:

An upper level storm system moved into the region behind a strong cold front. Temperatures fell below freezing across the northern Hill Country and Austin metro area. Showers and isolated thunderstorms moved out of Mexico and into the Hill Country, and approached the I-35 corridor around midnight. Sleet accumulation was reported across portions of the Hill Country. A mix of freezing rain and sleet is likely in the warning area throughout the night.

Region 6 (Includes DDCs 11, 23, 12, 18, and 17)

DDC 11/23 – Waco (Includes Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Falls, Freestone, Hamilton, Hill, Lampasas, Limestone, McLennan, Milam, Mills and San Saba Counties)

EOC Activations:

Bosque County

Government Facilities Delays/Closures

Texas Department of Public Safety DPS office Delayed Opening/Closure: All Headquarters and Austin area offices

Texas Health and Human Services Commission – Delayed Opening/Closure: Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Falls, Freestone, Hamilton, Hill, Lampasas, Limestone, McLennan, Milam, Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, Williamson, Bandera, Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall and Kerr Counties

City of Killeen, Temple, Cameron, Nolanville, Kempner, Robinson offices delayed office opening until 10 a.m. Thursday, March 5, 2015

Coryell, McLennan, Burnet, San Saba and Bell Counties offices delayed opening until 10 a.m. Thursday, March 5, 2015

Heart of Texas Council of Governments (HOTCOG) offices will delay opening until 10:00 a.m. Thursday, March 5, 2015

**STATE AGENCY REPORTS
TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
RESPONDING AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS**

Texas Public Utility Commission (PUC): PUC reports no significant power outages due to weather.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS): DPS Highway Patrol continue to assist TxDOT in clearing roadways and is monitoring weather and road conditions.

Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM): District Coordinators in impacted and potentially impacted areas are coordinating with volunteer agencies, local government agencies and also assisting with coordination of winter weather conference calls.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT): TxDOT activated their EOC's in Fort Worth, Austin, Tyler, Paris, San Angelo, Childress, Odessa, Waco, Wichita Falls, Lubbock, Dallas, Amarillo, Brownwood, El Paso and Atlanta. Crews remain active with pre-treating and deicing activities across the affected regions. TxDOT continues monitoring the weather. For additional information on highway conditions, please log in to <http://www.drivetexas.org>.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD): Personnel are supporting their local DDCs in the affected regions. TPWD is standing by and monitoring the weather.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS): TFS continues to provide resources in support of TxDOT operations.

Resource Kind and Type	Quantity	# Personnel	Status	Resource Location
Dozers	20	40	Available	Various
Engines (Type VI)	4	8	Available	Various
RFC's	20	20	Available	Various
IMT	2	23	Available	Various
Saw Crews	6	12	Available	East Branch
Motor Graders	2	5	Committed	Merkel

Motor Graders	2	6	Committed	Eastland
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Texas Military Forces (TXMF): TXMF has alerted units in the impacted area and is standing by. The Joint Operation Center (JOC) is monitoring the winter weather and standing by for any support request.

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) conducted a winter weather conference call with selected state emergency management council agencies and National Weather Service Offices 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2015. The next conference call is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2015. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) is monitoring the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed. The SOC is at Activation Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions).

The four levels of SOC activation are:

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the DEM Homepage at: www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem

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